



RAIN GARDEN DESIGN & INSTALLATION

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SITING THE RAIN GARDEN

How does water flow across the landscape when it rains?



Site rain garden between the “source” and “destination.”



Use existing impervious areas to direct water towards the rain garden (rooftop, driveway, sidewalks, compacted lawn)



SITING THE RAIN GARDEN

- > 10 ft. from building foundation
- > 25 ft. from septic system drain field
- Avoid shallow water tables < 18 in. deep
- Call #811! Ensure no buried cables or pipes in the excavation area
- In full to partial sun, if possible



Slide by Dr. Dan Hitchcock

GETTING WATER TO THE RAIN GARDEN



GETTING WATER TO THE RAIN GARDEN



Downspout

Downspout Extender

Corrugated Pipe



GETTING WATER TO THE RAIN GARDEN

Direct rain barrel
or cistern
overflow to rain
garden



**During a one inch rainfall, a
1000 square foot roof can
yield over 600 gallons of
water!**

*Multiple square footage of
roof area by .623*



GETTING WATER TO THE RAIN GARDEN



GETTING WATER TO THE RAIN GARDEN



Site rain
garden
within close
proximity of
rain barrel
or cistern

GETTING WATER TO THE RAIN GARDEN



Use egg rock or river rock to dissipate energy where water enters the rain garden

If using sheet flow as source of water; make rock channels in berm

RAIN GARDEN SHAPE

Excavate down 6 to 10 inches

Many hands (& proper equipment)
make lighter work



RAIN GARDEN SHAPE



Try kidney bean or
curved shape

At least 8 to 10 feet wide
in direction of flow



RAIN GARDEN SHAPE

Build a **berm** around the perimeter of the shape (pack tightly)



Berm varies in height and width.

Typically no more than 5 inches high and 12 inches wide

AMEND SOILS & PLANT



DON'T FORGET TO MULCH!

Non-floating mulch

Cedar generally most recommended



CREATING FLOW



- *Overflow* can be a 1 to 2 inch dip in the berm
- Stabilized with rock
- Opposite *inflow*

When the rain garden is over full, water needs a place to go (avoid damage to berm, mulch, etc)

An overflow can direct water out of the rain garden onto an adjacent pervious surface (lawn, landscaped area)

WATER



Plants will need to be observed and watered the first couple of weeks after planting

Dependent upon time of year & local rainfall patterns could be less or more

BEFORE & AFTER



Dorchester County Government
Building, Summerville

SIGNAGE? COMMUNICATION?



Thank You!

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